



## I'm in 7<sup>th</sup> grade band! (Now what?)

### *Here are some frequently asked questions:*

#### **1) When do I need to get an instrument?**

Don't get one just yet. Once school starts, we'll do some testing to help you find which instrument works best for you. You'll get to try most of them out before you make a final choice.

#### **2) I found a clarinet for \$50 online. Should I get it?**

Short answer: No. Unfortunately, the adage "too good to be true" is in full effect here. Instruments for that price online are usually toy quality. You will never be able to make a good sound on one. Additionally, instruments are complex, and all eventually need repairs and maintenance (just like a car). These "instruments" are made with materials that can't withstand the maintenance process. The local music store won't even accept them. The best bet is to check with me before you make this investment.

#### **3) Is there a fee for band?**

Yes, there is a small fee of \$50 for middle school (it's due by September 13). This fee covers your band book and band shirt.

#### **4) Is anything required after school?**

Only two events are required – the Christmas concert (December 3 at 6:30pm) and the Spring Concert (March 23 – time TBA). Other events will happen, but they're optional for middle schoolers.

#### **5) What is the best way to get an instrument?**

We partner with Pecknel Music company out of Columbia, SC. They will be at school on Monday, September 9 from 4pm until 6pm. Parents can come and meet the representative to discuss their instrument rent-to-own program. This is the best option. You pay as you go and you get a new or (if you prefer) a certified pre-owned instrument that is covered by their maintenance and repair program (if it breaks, they'll fix it)!

#### **6) The rental meeting sounds great! What do I need to bring?**

They will ask for some personal information and usually a debit card (they will ask for the first payment that day.)

#### **7) When will we start playing in class?**

Our plan is to start playing instruments in class on Monday, September 16. We'll be learning the basics until then.

#### **8) Is there anything else I should know?**

Yes! We are so excited to help you begin your musical journey at McBee High! Please feel free to see Mr. Crawley if you have any questions!